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ment unsatisfactory for other reasons. The other was a capitalistic enterprise, conceived by the men of wealth and education who organized a company, obtained a large tract of land by grant or purchase, planned the details of settlement, allotted or sold lands to the actual settlers, provided for their protection and helped to promote their religious, social, economic, or political development. Their reward came in the profits of the enterprise, in money or land, the power to direct the nature of the settlement and to act as officials in the actual government of the community. For example, the leading stockholders of the Ohio Company were also the first officers appointed for the government of the Northwest Territory. Governor Arthur St. Clair, Secretary Winthrop Sargent, and Judges Parsons and Varnum were shareholders. The two last, with Putnam, were the directors of the company. Sargent was the first secretary of the company, as well as the first secretary of the Northwest Territory.

Professor Hulbert makes a vigorous and unqualified defense of Manasseh Cutler in his dealings with the Scioto group of speculators. He aims "to repudiate sternly such lurking human-like insinuations as have been made now and then that Dr. Cutler overstepped the ethical boundary lines in his work for the Ohio Company" (p. 55). Lack of direct evidence to the contrary favors this conclusion. However, the indirect evidence still raises the question whether Cutler squared his ethics with those of the group he was seeking favors from (p. 73); or whether he was lacking in the astuteness needed to fathom the character and motives of these men, a supposition not quite in harmony with the sketch given of his character (p. 58). Elsewhere Professor Hulbert speaks of the "credulity of the Ohio Company's agents" (p. 88) and explains Cutler's connection and dealings with this notorious group on the ground that he was in complete ignorance of their real motives and character (pp. 58, 72-77).

The introduction as a whole is exceedingly well written, and for the first time adequately presents the story of the founding of the company and its influence. The form, appearance, and editing of the book are excellent. Historical students are fortunate in being assured that the editorship of this series is in such competent hands, and we shall look forward eagerly to the completion of a series that will contain one of the most important collections of sources for the study of this section of the West.

MARCUS W. JERNEGAN.

A History of the United States. By EDWARD CHANNING. Volume IV. *Federalists and Republicans, 1789-1815.* (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1917. Pp. vii, 575. \$2.75.)

PROFESSOR CHANNING'S fourth volume deals with the history of the United States between the years 1789 and 1815. It has not quite as many words as the two and two-thirds volumes allotted to the same

period in Professor Hart's *American Nation*. But the author has used his space with a great deal of care, and by contracting at some places at which other writers have given more attention to details he has been able to give excellent accounts of incidents that were formerly treated with less than the necessary fullness. The readjustment of emphasis will probably disappoint some readers accustomed to the older distribution, but it has much to recommend it, if the author's point of view is considered. The discriminating reader will also note the success with which Professor Channing solves his problem of writing a new book which is not merely a re-statement of what he wrote in the twelfth volume of the *American Nation*. The space assigned to the years between 1800 and 1812 is nearly the same in each volume, yet each has maintained its individuality.

The success with which this is achieved is due to the extremely original treatment of the facts in the volume now before us. By a large use of sources and recent monographic publications the author's original mind has been able to present a new narrative at a great many points. The result is that we have a body of history unlike that of Hildreth in its statements, and in spirit, at least, different from the writings of Henry Adams. Hardly an important episode has been left just as it was before; and all has been done with such directness and evident fairness that it carries conviction to the reader. It does not seem extravagant to say that for the period with which this volume deals Professor Channing must be regarded as having set a new light in the historical heavens in the United States which none of his successors will ignore. If critics find flaws in his treatment they will probably find small ones, and they will have to fight hard for their contentions.

The most important general feature of the volume is that the author irons out the New England crimps that have long been noted in the history of this period. He does it most deftly and without letting us see that he thinks it should have been done long ago. By a fresh examination of documents, with his mind divested of the ideas that he got from the older books, he composes his own narrative in which appears no sectional bias of either conscious or unconscious origin. He gives us ample evidence that he appreciates the point of view of every section of the country and all classes of society. There is no intolerance for New England, nor for Virginia, and the feelings of the men of the frontier are given full consideration. These are things that have long waited the doing and he who has done them should have the thanks of the country. Some of the incidents in which this new treatment is evident are here given, taken at random from a long list that was made during the reading of the volume.

For example, we learn that it was the King of Spain himself who ordered Morales, the Spanish intendant at New Orleans, to suspend the right of deposit in 1802. Moreover, Morales was directed to excuse

himself for his action by saying that he interpreted the treaty of 1795 as granting the right for only three years. He was cautioned that he should not let it be known that he really acted by royal orders (p. 326). The incident created great concern in the West and the Federalists promptly seized on it to embarrass the administration. Their best success at winning popularity was achieved in the French affair in 1798, and they saw in the situation of 1802 an opportunity to repeat the process, wrenching from Republican allegiance the passionate men of the frontier. The way in which we are here shown the working of party motives behind the political scenes is characteristic of the treatment generally.

Of interest, also, is the information that Commodore Preble suggested to Jefferson to send gunboats for use in the Tripolitan harbors. The boats were built and sent to the Mediterranean, where they did good service and won the praise of British naval officers who saw them. When Jefferson took up the question of harbor defense at home he was appalled at the cost of erecting forts at all the needed places. It was a greater expense than a new and only partially settled government could endure. He turned to gunboat defense as a less expensive substitute. In doing so he had the approval of Commodore Barron and Captain Tingey, as well as of Preble, naval officers of high rank. In the face of facts like these the scorn that the historian has poured on Jefferson's gunboat policy must be abated (p. 270).

Professor Channing has an open hand for John Adams, who suffered largely from the historians of his time. He finds much to approve in Adams's proposition to send Jefferson to France when it was known that Pinckney would not be received by the Directory. Jefferson was popular in France and he was patriotic. Adams's idea of creating a non-partizan administration was good, and in the unformed state of parties then existing it was not fanciful. If these two men, leaders of the two new parties, could have come into co-operation at the time, the history of the succeeding years of perplexity might have been much altered (p. 181). But it is difficult to think that Jefferson would have worked with Adams more successfully than another; for John Adams was a man who did his own planning and he would not have followed the lead of any man.

Again, it is refreshing to read in connection with the X Y Z affair that "the commissioners did not abhor the thought of buying the Directors and Talleyrand any more than Pitt and King George had done; but they refused point blank to involve the United States in any breach of neutrality which would be the necessary outcome of a loan to France" (p. 187). This new dress alters materially the figure of an old tale that has long been cherished as an illustration of our peculiar type of political virtue. Of equal interest is the fact that the Nootka Sound incident is given the treatment which its importance in the history of the Pacific Coast demands.

While one cannot say that these new points should have been omitted, he will at least regret that it was necessary to shorten the account of some of the old features of the story. The Whiskey Insurrection is brought down into such narrow compass that it is impossible to explain its importance in the political life of the day. The Hartford Convention is disposed of in six pages, which seems to the reviewer insufficient for the discussion of an incident that brought into strong relief the most penetrating political and sectional division of the people of the time. Burr's intrigues in the Southwest are similarly shortened, but in that case the curtailment seems well done; for Burr's conduct was not as important as the consideration it has received would warrant. He was an ex-vice-president and his position enhanced the significance of his deeds in the minds of the historians.

New as is his presentation, it is as an old-style historian that we must rank Professor Channing. For him the political thread is the clue to follow. He gives the first chapter in the volume to social conditions, and thereafter he goes on from one political event to another. It is probable that his interest in social history is not expressed in this treatment; for the period under consideration is singularly knit together. One event follows another so rapidly that there is no good place for interjecting descriptions of manners of living and conditions of transportation. In previous volumes the author has shown appreciation for such treatment; but he has never been disposed to accept the demands of those who see all history as economic and social. He seems to realize that he writes for an audience of readers of general intelligence and interest. The central fact in his narrative is the conscious life of the nation as expressed in its organic will, the government at the capital. What was done here and who did it and why, and what it signified, are all ever-present facts in this book, and it is not too much to predict that they will find hearty appreciation from the public.

The author's style is very direct and simple. There is a wholesome absence of the terminology of the *seminar*, that weight dragging to oblivion many an otherwise excellent book on history. In the arrangement of matter he encounters a problem that puzzles all who try to write our national history. It is very difficult to gather in a logical way the events that rise to importance in political life. He has the easiest task who sticks to the chronological way, as Hildreth, and somewhat harder but not very greatly so, who goes at it by administrations. Hardest of all is the attempt to make a logical arrangement, which must cut across administrations. Of the third method, which Professor Channing largely employs, it is to be said that he has used it successfully, although there are drawbacks in the method—interferences with the reader's power of giving attention—that no one can overcome. Mention must be made, also, of his excellent use of foot-notes. He makes them illuminate the text without the suggestion of pedantry, and any young writer of history may well study the art with which it is done.

JOHN SPENCER BASSETT.